

Tenneco Minerals  
A Tenneco Company

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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

February 23, 1990

Mr. Holland Sheppard  
Reclamation Soils Specialist  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

Reference: Solution Breach at the Goldstrike Mine

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

As required in our Emergency Response and Operating Procedures manual, I am informing you of the solution breach that occurred at the Goldstrike Mine on February 21, 1990.

The breach occurred on leach cell number 7 and was the result of a distribution pipe end-cap being blown off a 6-inch pipe. The solutions washed down the slope face of the heap and onto the abandoned conveyor belt access ramp. This ramp was frozen and packed and was not ripped and bermed upon abandonment. Thus, solutions were able to travel down the ramp across the crusher area and into a belt underpass. We estimated 8000 gallons of cyanide solution were lost over the pad surface. Fortunately, the majority of the solution "collected" at the belt underpass.

The incident occurred at 4:30 p.m. and, quite fortunately, we had two operators who shut the system down within ten minutes of the line rupture.

Remedial steps were promptly initiated:

- 1) The solutions were immediately neutralized with 8 lbs of calcium hypochlorite (sampling confirmed neutralization);
- 2) The solutions were then scooped up and placed upon the leach pad;
- 3) The remaining "mudded" area was mixed with some mine waste and scooped and hauled to the leach pad; and
- 4) The ramp area was ripped and bermed to prevent this sort of release.

MR. HOLLAND SHEPPARD  
SOLUTION BREACH AT GOLDSTRIKE MINE

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I have enclosed a map for your reference in review of  
this matter.

Please advise me of any concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

TENNECO MINERALS COMPANY



Ken A. Kluksdahl  
Mine Manager

KAK:bas

Enclosure: Map

cc: Southwest District Health Department  
Bureau of Land Management  
Utah Bureau of Water Pollution Control